

KLEW-TV
April 2012 – June 2012

Asotin County Family Aquatic Center:

The public need a safe place to swim during summer months instead of using nearby rivers. The Clarkston Public City Pool closed over 10 years ago. Bert Lipps and the Orchards Pool in Lewiston are more than 40 years old. A long term solution for funding to operate and maintain the aquatic center needs addressed.

Health Risks & Concerns:

With the change of seasons from winter to spring there are varying degrees of health risks to consider. With the costs of healthcare rising there is a need of awareness associated with risks that apply to the general population.

Economic Growth:

Since the economic downturn of jobs at lumber mills remain well below 2007 employment levels. The local economy depends on attracting a diverse business base with dependable wages for the unemployed and under-employed.

Effective City Planning:

There is a need for better city planning and fiscal responsibility. Maintaining and updating Lewiston and Clarkston infrastructure for future population growth. Elected officials need to spend taxpayer's dollars prudently and wisely.

Educated Workforce:

Give students the necessary tools to succeed in the 21st century workforce. Prepare students for future jobs with technological skills that are needed to succeed. Invest in quality education and opportunities for advanced education for all citizens of the community.

**KLEW-TV
Issues/Programs List
April 2012 – June 2012**

The Need to Address Asotin County Family Aquatic Center

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 4/11/12, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:54

Description: KLEW News reported that a local non-profit organization has raised nearly \$1,000 for the Asotin County Family Aquatic Center. Asotin County Friends of Parks and Recreation created the fundraising drive after Clarkston officials decided to cut funding from this year's budget. All donations will go toward the Aquatic Center's 2012 operating costs. Wanda Keefer said it's really important that we figure out the long term solution for this. Contributions from the community will help keep the facility open in the long term. So far, the county has borrowed \$110,000 from the equipment fund to help pay for this year's estimated \$160,000 shortfall.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 4/13/12, 6:00p.m.

Duration: 1:50

Description: KLEW News reported that an initiative petition that would require the City of Clarkston to provide funding for the Asotin County Family Aquatic Center was turned into Clarkston City Hall. Organizers turned over more than 800 signatures to City clerk Vickie Storey. Former City Attorney Scott Broyles filed the petition a little over a month ago. It calls for the amendment of a 2007 city ordinance that allocates sales tax revenues to the city's general fund. Storey said the council has been pretty firm so far in their belief that we have budget constraints and that we need to be careful with our money. She did not know if the petition will change their mind or not. If approved, the initiative would require the entire .03% optional sales tax collected by the city to be used for maintenance, operation, and debt services of the aquatic center. Storey said the petition is not valid because too much time has passed for a referendum. The next step is to consult the city's attorneys on the issue.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 4/18/12, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:23

Description: KLEW News reported that Clarkston City Council continues to stand behind their decision not to provide funding for the Asotin County Family Aquatic Center.

In 2007, the Clarkston City Council voted to opt-in and collect Clarkston's 85% share of the .3 sales tax imposed by the county. The collection of the imposed tax began in March of 2008. However, currently that revenue is going into the city's general fund upsetting citizens and forcing them to take action. "The citizens of Clarkston are mad as hell and aren't going to take it anymore," said Initiative Petition Attorney Scott Broyles.

In December, \$160,000 was requested to help the Aquatic Center's 2012 costs of operation. But, Clarkston's drained budget just couldn't handle the request. As it stands now, some of the money initially intended for the Aquatic Center goes toward the funding of police and fire services. Clarkston Mayor Kathleen Warren is hopeful the city and petitioners can negotiate the creation of a taxing district for the center.

"It's an unfortunate situation and I'm hoping that we can reach a point somewhere along the line where I or members of the council can meet with the commission, and perhaps even some citizens, and try to find a compromise that we can work on," said Warren.

More than 800 people recently signed an initiative petition to show the council how important it is for them to follow through with their annual contribution to the center.

Broyles said the answer is simple. "The city council could pass a resolution basically referring this issue to the voters for a vote," said Broyles. "According to the city ordinance any referendum petition to appeal would have had to be filed within seven days of the original ordinance passage," said reporter Whitney Hise. "The ordinance was passed in December of 2007 and the petition wasn't filed until April of 2012. Meaning it was roughly four year and four months too late. Until a judge tells us that that's the case were going to keep going," said Broyles. Opinions are like noses and everybody has one and the only one that counts is the judges that hear this." Broyles said the issue could be taken to court as soon as next week.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 5/9/12, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:50

Description: KLEW News reported that the Asotin County Commissioners approved a one time allowance that allows the Aquatic Center to open the outdoor facilities this summer. The allowance draws funds from the center's equipment repair and replacement reserves and uses that money toward operation costs. But where next year's funds will come from is still uncertain. Commissioners Jeffords as well as the rest of the board stated fairly bluntly that when they made this decision is a one time deal said aquatic center Director Nick Bacon. We can afford to dip into the equipment fund this year and offset that, but the future beyond that does not look bright. Bacon said several options for the future of the aquatic center are being explored. The outdoor facility will open June 9th.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 5/22/12, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:21

Description: KLEW News reported that The Asotin County Commissioners held a town hall meeting Monday night, seeking input from citizens on the future of the Aquatic Center. The town hall meeting held at Walla-Walla Community College dove right into the controversial topic of the Asotin County Family Aquatic Center. Area residents came together in an attempt to find a solution to fund the center in the coming years. However most people like Rick Rogers just want the government to find a solution for what he considers to be a mess. "It needs to be managed and I haven't seen it managed yet," said Rogers. "I mean I've seen a lot of people have a lot of suggestions." Solutions that residents and officials offered throughout the meeting included raising property taxes, raising sales taxes or trying to reverse the City of Clarkston's decision to opt out of the last sales tax hike. Aquatic Center Director Nick Bacon views all the public interest as a positive step for the community. "It's really nice to see the amount of public support and growing public involvement in this issue, as well as other issues facing the county," said Bacon. "I think it's a good thing and refreshing to see. And it's positive and I hope that we can continue to move forward in a positive fashion." Clarkston Mayor Kathleen Warren attended the event and pointed out that Clarkston is already running on a bare-bones staff with an exceptionally tight budget. No agreements or decisions were made by Commissioners Jim Jeffords, Brian Shinn and Don Brown Tuesday night, but opinions were taken into consideration for the future. The Aquatic Center will operate this summer by dipping into the equipment replacement reserve fund to facilitate the outdoor costs. The park opens June 9th.

The Need to Address Health Risks

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 4/3/12, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:20

Description: KLEW News reported that an epidemic of whooping cough that's sweeping the State of Washington is highly contagious and it's extremely tough on babies. Mother, Heidi Brunch said "It's the whooooo, when they're sucking their air back in, it's terrible to watch because they're basically choking to death." The baby spent a week in intensive care unit with pertussis, also known as whooping cough. The State Department of Health said whooping cough has reached epidemic levels in Washington State. There are more cases than last year, if the rate were to continue, we'd be talking about figures we haven't seen since 1942. In the past week alone there have been 100 new cases. Infants can't be vaccinated until they're 6 weeks old so they are especially at risk. The Health Department is imploring that everyone else should get their shots.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 4/5/12 11:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:24

Description: KLEW News reported that the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare wants you to think switch about giving your kids a baby chick or a duckling for Easter. State health officials are warning Idahoans to resist buying the baby fowl because they can post a real health risk for young children and those with weakened immune systems. The department has sent out a warning around Easter time for the past several years. They do hear of cases of Salmonella in Idaho and around the country that some of the cases have been directly linked to handling of baby chicks. Health official Simnitt said children are the most susceptible to infection because they're most likely to put their fingers in their mouths after contact. Also their immune systems are still developing. Washing your hands is always a good idea if you do handle poultry.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 5/3/12, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:38

Description: KLEW News reported that the recent death of Grant County woman sparked a word of caution from a Washington State University scientist. Assistant Professor at Washington State University's Allan School for Global Animal Health Hector Aguilar-Carreno said the woman died from a pathogen known as the Hantavirus. The virus is carried by deer mice and can be transferred to humans through their excretions. Aguilar-Carreno said the virus' symptoms start out flu-like, but after a week start to affect the respiratory system. He says the virus is rare but, if it goes untreated, it has a 33% mortality rate. "It's very likely we're not gonna' get a ton of cases in the area, but it is quite fatal and so you have to be aware of your surroundings," said Aguilar-Carreno. Aguilar-Carreno said in order to prevent getting the virus people need to mouse-proof their homes by using traps and other devices. He says if you think you have been exposed to deer mice excretions or are experiencing any symptoms you should contact a doctor immediately.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 5/14/12, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:17

Description: KLEW News reported that a man shopping at the Clarkston Walmart was hospitalized after he was bit by a rattlesnake. The victim Mica Craig said he was taking a walk around the Walmart Garden Center on Saturday hoping to buy mulch to grow his medicinal marijuana plants. He claims he reached down to move, what he thought was a stick, out of the way when a rattlesnake bit him on the hand. Craig said the safety of the other customers was more important than his bite. Craig said, "I had to swing it off twice and when it hit the ground, it curled up and I seen these kids out there so I jumped all over the snake and stomped it dead." After receiving six vials of anti-venom and hand surgery, Craig is still at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center receiving care. Walmart Spokeswomen Kayla Whaling said the retailer is working quickly to fix the situation. "We apologize that Mr. Craig had this experience. It does appear that this is an isolated incident and we are working with a third party pest management team who is going to be doing a sweep of the property to make sure there is no additional activity."

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 6/14/12, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:05

Description: KLEW News reported that WA - The Asotin County Family Aquatic Center swim instructors helped try to break the world record Thursday for "World's largest swimming lesson." Now that both Lewiston and Clarkston school districts are out for the summer, kids came out and attempted to help beat last year's record of roughly 20,000 people taking a swim lesson simultaneously. The more than 500 locations that participated around the globe represented countries from five continents and 46 states here in U.S. Swim instructor Charley Lynch said the lesson helps kids get the basics to be safe in the water. "I think it said 24 countries around the world that did the same exact lesson plan that we just did today," said Lynch. "Basically it was a level one lesson which is just the basics of swimming. Getting going, getting used to being in the water and getting comfortable in the water." The purpose of the lesson has a greater meaning than just a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records. Every year the leading cause of injury related death for children ages one through five is drowning. The World's Largest Swimming Lesson organization hopes to change this statistic by getting kids used to the water and learning how to swim to prevent drowning. Once the organization has received the official counts from every host location, they will then announce if the world record was broken.

The Need to Address Economic Growth

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 4/9/12, 11:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:00

Description: KLEW News reported that The US Army Corps of Engineers Walla Walla District has approved the 2013 \$2.9 million dollar Port of Lewiston dock expansion.

The port committee will begin its budget workshop next month to discuss funding options for the 150 foot dock expansion down river from the original 125 foot dock, and could start as early as July of 2013. "Up until we bid the project we will be looking at all options on the table as far as grants and loans so we can make the best possible package for financing the project," said Port of Lewiston Manager David Doeringsfeld. The port has received some grant funds from the State of Idaho and will continue to explore additional revenue options. Port of Lewiston Manager David Doeringsfeld said the money will most likely generate from private funding, State loan programs and port resources.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 4/30/12, 11:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:40

Description: KLEW News reported that the preliminary bids are in for the south side expansion of the Lewiston-Nez Perce County Regional Airport. "This is definitely exciting because this is one of the last steps before we can actually start using the area," said Airport Manager Robin Turner. "That area has, in essence, been unusable since 1944 when the airport opened." Reidesel Engineering will review the bids to verify the responsiveness and will post bid tabulation Tuesday morning. The south side expansion would call for a 50 by 2,500 foot taxiway, as well as a 300 by 2,500 foot apron. Lewiston-Nez Perce County Regional Airport Manager Robin Turner said the \$3.5 million project will create jobs which will benefit local economic growth for years to come. The expansion would accommodate private hangers and allow larger aviation companies to relocate to the Valley.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 5/9/12, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:47

Description: KLEW News reported that the Republican hopeful Dan Johnson said he's eager to continue his service as a State Senator for Idaho. Johnson said he is an accessible candidate, whose main focus is on health care, jobs and reviving the economy. He feels his constituents can agree that he's a great communicator and anxious to find a solution too many problems Idahoans face. "I want to serve, I'm ready to serve again," said Johnson. "I'm a good listener and I think that's important to constituents. They want to know that they can communicate with you and talk to you, that they'll be heard, and that you'll get back to them. I think that's very important." Johnson has lived in this area for 20 years and attended the University of Idaho. He's currently the Senator for District 7, however due to the recent re-districting; he is running for District 6. Johnson is running against current State Representative Jeff Nasset in the Republican Primary on May 15th. (Dan Johnson won in the May primary election.)

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 5/21/12, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:17

Description: KLEW News reported that workers laid off at the end of last year will benefit from a grant from the US Department of Labor. The nearly \$1 million grant will help about 125 workers who lost their jobs when the Lewiston sawmill operation was sold to Idaho Forest Products. Idaho Forest Products reopened the mill before year's end but has hired back fewer than half of the 250 workers let go. The National Emergency Grant, which is administered by the Idaho Department of Labor, will provide services to the workers who were not rehired and have not found other jobs. Unlike some other assistance programs, this grant specifically allows the department to assist workers regardless of their residency, a significant aspect since the mill drew workers from Washington as well as Idaho.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 5/21/12, 11:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:56

Description: KLEW News reported that Construction for the Moscow Intermodal Transit Center building is on schedule after construction started last week. The \$1.7 million building will house the University of Idaho's Transportation and Parking services and connect the community to the Northwestern Trailways service. Moscow Community Development Director Bill Belknap said the project shows what can be done when the City and university work together. "I just think this is a great, outstanding partnership between the City of Moscow and the University of Idaho," said Belknap. "Both are contributing federal grant dollars to the project, as well time, effort, and energy. And I think it's been a great example of a partnership between the two." Belknap said the project is scheduled for completion by the middle of October and will be operational in December.

The Need to Address City Planning

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 4/20/12, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:02

Description: KLEW News reported that although the Lewiston City Council approved the transfer of 800-thousand dollars from the Lewiston sanitation fund to the library, it appears there soon may be another speed bump for the library. Members of Taxpayers Against Unfair Taxation have drafted an initiative petition to prevent the city council from transferring any money from anything other than what the fees were originally designed for. Taxpayers Against Unfair Taxation Chairman David Estes said if the money does not go towards the funding it was originally intended for, it should be returned to the people. "In the process of misusing those funds, they broke the city code. You can't have that in government, they have to up front and they have to do it right," said Estes. "I just go by what the law says, and the state law says cities can transfer funds from one unexpended fund balance to another," said Lewiston City Manager Jim Bennett. "It's one sentence and it's pretty clear to me." In March, council members approved the transfer of funds with a four to three vote after nearly two hours of heated debate from concerned citizens. If members of the Taxpayers Against Unfair Taxation are able to gather enough valid signatures for the initiative petition, the transfer of funds will go on the November ballot. Lewiston City Manager Jim Bennett said the petition would not withstand a legal challenge.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 5/15/12, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:45

Description: KLEW News reported that The City of Clarkston is seeking a construction loan to upgrade the wastewater treatment plant. The facility renovations will help to clean the water in a more effective and efficient way. Public Works Director Jim Martin said the technological upgrades will be expensive but are long overdue. "It's been needed for quite a number of years," said Martin. "The equipment gets old and it's very expensive to replace. It's good that the council is going ahead and finding the additional funds that we need for this project." The construction loan, which was applied for through the Department of Ecology, will amount to be in the \$2 million range. That's due to a shortfall in the initial budget, which was estimated to be approximately \$12 million. With the lowest approved bidder for the renovations offering at \$14.5 million, Martin said rate-payers can expect about a 10% increase over the next five years. This means about \$2 more each month.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 5/24/12, 11:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:58

Description: KLEW News reported that an agreement with a Lewiston company for the rebuilding of First and Fifth streets have been approved. M.L. Albright and Sons was authorized Tuesday to take on the nearly \$2.5 million downtown Lewiston Streetscape project. Urban Renewal Agency board members, as well as TD&H Engineering, were proud to announce a reduction to contract costs. "This is a public project, so we were always looking for opportunities to get the most bang for the least buck," said TD&H Engineering Regional Manager David Witthaus. "We want to have a product that is exceptional, that looks nice, that people enjoy downtown, and that replaces the failed infrastructure." Originally costs totaled nearly \$2.5 million, now costs are almost \$130,000 less. Reductions stemmed from cutting back on colored concrete crosswalks as well as pressure irrigation pipes.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 6/13/12, 5:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:43

Description: KLEW News reported It was a battle of the councilors at Monday night's Lewiston City Council meeting as the motion to approve the nearly \$2.5 million roundabout project was ruled out. Councilors who voiced their opinion focused their concerns on the budget, while Mayor Kevin Poole zeroed in on the safety hazards of Snake River and Southway Avenues. Poole declared it would be the council's responsibility for any and all accidents that could occur if the project was not approved. "To say that just because I don't support a particular budget issue, doesn't mean that I'm responsible, or claim responsibility for any accidents, or lack of accidents," said Councilor Clinton Daniel. "That's out of order, that's an insult to this whole process." Councilor Clinton Daniel fired back at the Mayor by saying if that was the case; why not lower the speed limit down to 10 MPH. After a tedious and heated discussion, the motion failed four-to-two.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 6/18/12, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:26

Description: KLEW News reported that after more than a year, the Downtown Lewiston Streetscape Project has begun. Crews began tearing the streets apart just after 1p.m. Monday afternoon marking the first day of construction for the First and Fifth Street projects. Downtown drivers can expect at least one lane of Main and D Streets to remain open throughout the project. However, there may be short closures for underground work. "The City's looking forward to the future, and planning and trying to improve some of their infrastructure downtown," said M.L. Albright & Sons Co-Owner Dale Albright. "It will help hopefully attract people downtown too." The Lewiston Urban Renewal Agency, along with the City of Lewiston is expecting construction to be completed by the end of this year. All business will remain open with access and updates will be posted at downtownlewistonstreetscape.com.

The Need to Address Educated Workforce

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 4/5/12, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:10

Description: KLEW News reported that a full house showed up for today's community forum focused on educating people about the Complete College Idaho Education plan. "The forums actually give us the opportunity to hear a local flavor about the perspectives that people in those communities see as important," said Policy Advisor Bryon Yankey. The event held at LCSC is the fifth and final forum before the State Board of Education views the initiative. Idaho coalition for Idaho Education Excellence Policy Advisor said the plan helps motivate more students to chose and complete a post-secondary program after high school. Yankey said the common concerns around the initiative are the financial needs, the amount of time it takes a person to get through post-secondary schooling and the amount of education students receive in high school. The Board of Education will review the Complete College Idaho Education plan in June.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 5/17/12, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:34

Description: KLEW News reported that The Department of Energy has awarded Washington State University with a \$2 million grant. The grant will be divided between two departments to advance the University's research on nuclear energy. Chemistry professor Ken Nash said the grant will not only go toward research in the field, but will also ensure there's another generation of radio-chemists who know how to handle the delicate substance. "Our students will be able to focus on doing research, rather than having to spend their time doing teaching. That's 90% of the money coming in is going to go to supporting the activities of students." Nash said there were only three graduate students at the university when he started nine years ago. Today that number has grown to thirty. The grant will sustain and perhaps even improve that number.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 6/6/12, 5:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:04

Description: KLEW News reported that after the recent opening of Schweitzer Engineering in Lewiston, LHS engineering teacher William Jones jumped on the ball and applied for a \$7,000 grant with the company. LHS has been adopting the pre-engineering program for the past 3 years, working toward a material science technology format way of teaching. "I was thoroughly surprised when I found out the amount that we received," said Jones. "We really struggle to get some of the funding that we need for running competitive programs, and their generosity was the thing that was most amazing to me." The \$7,000 will help improve the manufacturing side of the engineering curriculum, one of five critical aspects students learn about throughout the year. Jones was able to purchase an injection molding machine which will teach how to produce parts and design their own molds, which is a key component to the vast majority of projects.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 6/5/12 11:00 p.m.

Duration: 1:43

Description: KLEW News reported that Lewiston High School was pleased to announce that their students will be seeing laptops in the classroom as soon as fall 2013. LHS was among 30 schools and two charter schools across the state that will receive the one-to-one laptops as part of Idaho's Student's Come First laws. Although the devices have not yet been selected, students will either receive a laptop computer or I-pad so they can move from class to class using the devices multiple functions. "I think it was important for us to be in that first round, especially because of the online requirements. With out students who enter fall '13, so next year's freshman, do have the two online requirements, this is an additional way to make sure we're meeting students need in the Lewiston valley." LHS along with four first round school districts and one charter school were selected from north central Idaho to receive the one-to-one initiative. Other districts include Cottonwood, Culdesac, Genesee, Highland and the Idaho Distance Education Academy.

Program: KLEW-TV News

Date/Time: 6/20/12, 6:00 p.m.

Duration: 0:38

Description: KLEW News reported that Idaho is the recipient of a \$3.1 million grant from the US Department of Education. The money will be used to develop public education programs that meet the needs of the workforce. The federal Institute of Education Sciences announced that Idaho is among states getting funds meant to link data from the workforce with the state's system of tracking student achievement. Idaho has lagged behind other states in developing its tracking system. State Board of Education President Ken Edmunds said the aim is to help more students who are transitioning from high school to college. Adding improved information will help Idaho focus its education efforts for maximum student benefit.